

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 25-32, and 34-38 are currently pending, wherein claims 1, 28, 31, 32, and 37 have been amended to even more clearly define the present invention, and claim 33 has been canceled.

In paragraph 2 of the Office action ("Action"), the Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 6-9, 28-33, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation, in order to expedite allowance of the present application, independent claims 1, 28, 31, 32, and 37 have been amended to positively tie the claimed method to another statutory category (i.e., apparatus) that accomplishes the claimed process step. In addition, claim 33 has been canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-9, 28-32, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

The application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Penny Caudle Reg. No. 46,607 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Penny Caudle #46,607  
Michael K. Mutter  
Registration No.: 29,680  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000